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sult and impertinence within very narrow limits. With only such restraints, the law, in times of turbulence, could never be administered, and courts would become passive instruments of the ruling faction of the day. The remarks of Judge Lewis upon these subjects seem to us sound and powerful. Upon the whole, we would recommend this pamphlet to the attentive consideration of all advocates for new codes; with due allowances, however, for a little illiberal zeal in favor of an excellent thing, the common law, which, like the common blessings of light and air, is not always duly appreciated, because we are not constantly sensible of its effects.

11.—*El Nacional*; a political Journal commenced at Buenos Ayres December 23d, 1824, and continued weekly to the present time. 8vo.

THE periodical and newspaper publications of the several South American States are numerous; and, if we may venture to judge of their general character, from the specimens which we have perused, we should say, without reserve, that the liberty of the press is used in those states with an intelligence and discretion, which ensure, better than successful battles or constitutions and laws can do, the lasting continuance of it. There may be, and there doubtless are, instances of licentiousness, which have not reached us, and would not be well understood if they did; for it is a characteristic of scurrility and personal abuse, that they are as confined in their existence as in their aim, seldom being seen or understood far from the time and place of their production. It is an invaluable privilege, to have these moral maps on a large scale, such as newspapers and other periodical works now afford, occasionally spread before us. They enable us to judge of the political and social condition, the manners, customs, passions, and improvements of a people, almost as well at our own firesides, as we could do by dangerous voyages, painful and expensive travel, and personal observation. They introduce us at once to the business and bustle, the interests, affections, and prejudices of a community, however remote in time or place. If any one doubts this position, and calls for proofs, we would send him to a file of our own revolutionary papers; and if he does not become immediately and deeply interested in the changing scenes of '75, he cannot be an American, scarcely a man.

The *Buenos Ayres Nacional* has been the immediate cause of these reflections, and is one of the specimens from the South

American press, from which we have received the impression already declared. In justice to the enlightened politicians and excellent classical scholars in Brazil (the contents of her journals prove that many of both exist there), we would observe, that this general opinion has not been formed without reference to the press in that country, as well as in the republics. There is no place at this time, where the press, and consequently its purity, are so important as in South America; and it is evident, that its power and importance are pretty well appreciated, from the fact, that it appears to be conducted with prudence and ability. The first citizens do not disdain the direct, extended, and prompt mode of bringing their own minds to bear on those of their fellow citizens, which the daily, the weekly, and the semiweekly journal supplies.

The following translations from an article, with which the *Nacional* commences the New Year in January last, entitled, 'A general Review of Europe and America,' for the year which had just ended, will serve to show the spirit, the sense, and the information, with which our brethren of Buenos Ayres are using the inestimable privilege of a free press. The writer is speaking of Austria.

'The House which rules this empire,' says he, 'can never answer the heavy charges, which humanity can bring against it. The Emperor not only commanded his slaves to crush the kingdom of Naples, which sought a system of government adapted to the improvements of the age; not only has he stubbornly persevered in this barbarous purpose, continuing a part of the army of occupation in that kingdom, contrary to the wishes of all liberal men, and of the king of Naples himself; but he has also attempted to reassemble the Holy Alliance at Milan, that they may occupy themselves about the affairs of Greece and of America, with the same benevolent view, with which they formerly interested themselves in the affairs of Naples.

'The prince, who gives vitality to this coalition, prince Metternich, born to be a faithful attendant at all the councils of despotism, was despatched to represent Austria in that assembly; but, in this instance, he was compelled to quit the field by the outcries, which arose from the necessities and sentiments of the time. His retirement from Milan might with more propriety be called a total rout, than a quiet return from a diplomatic mission.

'The hostilities of this power toward America have never ceased. Certain remittances of *soldiers* from Francis the Second of Austria to his son in law, Don Pedro the First of Brazil, some of whom have fallen under the edge of *Oriental* steel, have aug-

mented the desire, which before existed in this part of the world, that Austrian despotism may soon be summoned by Providence to a lasting repose.'

Under the head of *Greece*, the Review of whose affairs, for the year 1825, is the longest and most interesting of all, the writer again speaks of the policy of the House of Austria, that House which does not desire to have learned and reading subjects, as follows.

'During these transactions the cause of Greece, which was the cause of liberty, had powerful enemies in Europe itself; because the frightful system of the Holy Alliance, which was then entirely ascendant, would not admit of any modification whatsoever, not even in favor of humanity. Hence it was, that the world beheld with amazement, armaments and subsidies proceeding to the Turks from the ports of more than one Christian nation; and the House of Austria has almost taken the field with its armies, to aid in the battles, and to share the triumphs of the barbarians! Her periodical and daily presses have, with a refined malice, acted a most unworthy part with respect to Greece.'

We can never be indifferent as to what a distant, friendly, growing, and *confiding* Republic may say of ourselves. The following is a translation of that part of the Review, which speaks of the United States.

'This is the Northern Luminary, which guides the rest of the Republics in the work of liberty. As the principles, on which her government rests, do not depend upon men, but upon her excellent institutions, she is not for ever exposed to the vicissitudes and the arts of political management. Her policy has been substantially the same, from the first election of the immortal Washington, to the retirement of the venerated Monroe; and will unquestionably continue the same through the presidency of the illustrious statesman, Adams; and so on to future generations. In the month of March of the past year, the election of President took place, and the choice fell on that distinguished citizen; an election, which was the result of the most luminous discussions, and of the close scrutiny of character, with which, in that favored nation, these solemn public acts are performed. She has, during the same year, shown herself as generous as just, in paying the debt of gratitude to the celebrated Lafayette; and in concluding a treaty of amity and commerce with the Republic of Colombia. She will pursue the same policy in regard to other states, her natural allies; and, free from the engagements which fetter the nations of the old world, she tenders us a friendship, the more sincere and lasting in itself, as it is

more pure in the source from which it emanates. She has received the ministers of America without either the compliments or the repulsive reserve, which etiquette in other countries exacts; and stationed by Providence in the vanguard of the allied Republics, she forms the rallying point for all those engaged in the great work of consolidating American liberty.'

We could proceed with pleasure to present our readers with other parts, and views of other subjects, from these papers, sure, as we are, that they would not prove uninteresting or useless; but we must, for the present, confine ourselves to the expression of our approbation of the matter and the style of the *Nacional*. For sound, practical, and comprehensive views of government, education, and social order, for good temper, and for intelligence on the subjects of which it undertakes to treat, we know of no work of the kind, at home or abroad, with which it need fear a comparison.

- 12.—*Coleccion de los Viages y Descubrimientos, que hicieron por Mar los Españoles desde Fines del Siglo XV; con varios Documentos inéditos concernientes á la Historia de la Marina Castellana y de los Establecimientos Españoles en Indias; coordinada é ilustrada por DON MARTIN FERNANDEZ DE NAVARRETE, de la Orden de San Juan, Secretario de S. M. &c. 2 tom. 8vo. Madrid, en la Imprenta Real. Año de 1825. De orden de S. M.*

WHATEVER relates to the first discoveries and early history of the New World, is every day becoming an object of deeper curiosity, not more in Europe than among ourselves. The American public has already been informed of the publication of a series of papers and documents, within a few months past, at Madrid, throwing much light on the life, adventures, and discoveries of Columbus. These are contained in the volumes before us, and we find them much more valuable as affording authentic materials for history, than we had anticipated. It is necessary to premise, that the object of the author, Señor de Navarrete, is to publish an extensive work, consisting chiefly of inedited papers, gathered from the ancient archives and libraries of Spain, and designed to be a history of the discoveries made by the Spaniards in various parts of the world, beginning at the close of the fifteenth century. The two volumes now published are the first of the series, and relate exclusively to Columbus.